

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~22~~5,
wherein:

the verifier determines the authorization based on a
verification of a presence of an entirety of a data set

5 corresponding to the received material.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~22~~5,
wherein:

said storing means stores the damaged version on a
removable media.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~22~~5,
wherein:

said storing means stores the damaged version in a
temporary storage device, and stores the repaired version in a

5 permanent storage device.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 22~~An apparatus for receiving, protecting and storing material, said apparatus comprising:

input means for receiving material in an unprotected form

5 from a remote source;

means for generating a damaged version of said received material;

means for storing said damaged version of said received material;

10 a verifier for determining an authorization to process said received material; and

means for repairing the damaged version of said received material in response to said verifier determining the authorization,

15 wherein:

the damaging means damages a select portion of the received material to form the damaged version, and

the repairing means repairs a corresponding select portion of the damaged version to form the repaired version.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the apparatus further comprises:

means for disabling the damaging means in order to prevent subsequent damage to the received material, after the verifier
5 determines the authorization.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5,
wherein

the damaging means comprises:

a first device for damaging the select portion of the
5 received material via an exclusive-OR function with a key, and

the repairing means comprises:

a second device for repairing the select portion of the damaged version of the received material via an exclusive-OR function with the key.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7,
wherein

the key is provided via a random process.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8,
wherein

the key includes a series of random numbers that are provided via a pseudo-random process based on a key-seed.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7,
wherein

the key is destroyed if the verifier fails to determine
the authorization.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~22~~5,
wherein said apparatus further comprises:

means for rendering the received material while the
verifier is determining the authorization.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~12~~16,
wherein

the determining the authorization step is based on a
verification of a presence of an entirety of a data set
5 corresponding to the received material.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~12~~16,
wherein

the storing the damaged version step includes storing the
damaged version on a removable media.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~12~~16,
wherein

the storing the damaged version step includes storing the
damaged version in a temporary storage device, and wherein the

5 method further comprises the step of:

storing the repaired version in a permanent storage
device.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 12A~~
method of receiving, protecting and storing material, said method
comprising the steps of:

receiving the material in an unprotected form from a
5 remote source;

generating a damaged version of the received material;
determining an authorization to process the received
material;

storing the damaged version of the received material while
10 determining the authorization; and

repairing the damaged version of the received material to
form a repaired version of the received material after determining
the authorization,

wherein:

15 said generating steps comprises damaging a select portion
of the received material to form the damaged version, and wherein

said step of repairing the damaged version comprises repairing a corresponding select portion of the damaged version to form the repaired version.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein

said step of damaging a select portion of the received material includes performing an exclusive-OR operation on the
5 select portion with a key, and

said step of repairing the damaged version includes performing an exclusive-OR operation on the corresponding select portion of the damaged version with the key.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said method further comprises the step of:

generating the key via a random process.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein

the step of generating the key includes generating a series of random numbers via a pseudo-random process based on a
5 key-seed.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17,
wherein said method further comprises the step of:

destroying the key if a failure is reported in determining
the authorization.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim ~~16~~216,
wherein said method further comprises the step of:

providing an undamaged version of the received material
for rendering while determining the authorization.

22. (Cancelled).